

WASHINGTON, DC – The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) today announced the appointment of its first Executive Director, a milestone event establishing the long-term infrastructure to allow the Caucus to develop and implement long-term strategies on behalf of emerging and under-represented communities.

CAPAC Chair Mike Honda (D-CA) announced the creation of the position at the conclusion of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, during which communities across the country celebrate the heritage and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).

“This is an historic step in the 10-year history of CAPAC, one that would not have been possible without the groundwork laid by CAPAC’s first Chairman, Norman Mineta,” Honda said. “This new Executive Director position reflects the increasing profile of the AAPI community, and will allow CAPAC to forge even stronger relations with Congressional leadership and our ‘Tri-Caucus’ partners in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.”

AAPIs are the fastest-growing ethnic population in the country. Current CAPAC priorities include the following:

- Eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities through language access, cultural competency programs, data collection, and access to quality healthcare;
- Comprehensive immigration reform, including support of the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act;
- AAPI Education, especially providing adequate funding for implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act; and
- Protecting Social Security against the Bush Administration’s plans to privatize this social insurance program that provides retirement benefits for more than 785,000 AAPI seniors.

“CAPAC is building its infrastructure, and creating an Executive Director position represents a new step in our efforts to advocate for the AAPI community,” Honda said. “We will have greater

consistency, and stronger relations with members of the community and with our allies in the Tri-Caucus.”

Victoria Tung will serve as the new Executive Director for CAPAC. Currently operating as the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS)/California Endowment Health and Public Policy Fellow for CAPAC, Ms. Tung’s work has focused on addressing the lack of uniform health access and coverage amongst the growing minority populations throughout the country. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and minors in Urban Studies and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

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*The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is a bicameral and bipartisan caucus of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and Members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Founded in 1994 by then Congressman Norman Mineta, and currently chaired by Congressman Michael Honda, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life. For more information on CAPAC, please call (202) 225-2631 or visit <http://www.honda.house.gov/capac>.*